

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03206 091304 Z

47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-15 BNDE-00 CIAE-00

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: EQUIPMENT REQUEST, BORDER PATROL

REF STATE 75143

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED AS INDICATED TO PARAGRAPHS
IN REFTEL:

A. PARA 2. A): YES. THE BORDER PATROL HAS ITS OWN AVIATION
SECTION CONSISTING OF LESS THAN A DOZEN PLANES, MAINLY CESSNAS.
THE SECTION IS LOCATED AT THE CAMPO DE MAYO ARMY AIRFIELD IN
SUBURBAN BUENOS AIRES AND HAS FACILITIES FOR TRAINING AND
MAINTENANCE. TRAINED PILOTS ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR ASSIGNMENT
TO BORDER NARCOTICS STRIKE FORCE.

B. PARA 2. B) AIRCRAFT WOULD BE MAINTAINED (1 ST AND 2 ND ECHELON
MAINTENANCE) BY MECHANICS REASSIGNED FROM THE AVIATION SECTION
TO THE AGRUPACION SALTA (AREA WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE UTILIZED).
3 RD TO 5 TH ECHELON MAINTENANCE WILL BE PERFORMED IN THE SAME
MANNER AS WITH AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY IN THE INVENTORY: MAINTENANCE
WHICH CANNOT BE DONE BY THE BORDER PATROL OR THE ARMY AVIATION
MAINTENANCE FACILITIES WILL BE CONTRACTED OUT TO CIVILIAN
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03206 091304 Z

MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. THE BORDER PATROL HAS SO FEW PLANES IN ITS INVENTORY THAT IT DOES NOT KEEP TOOLS AND PARTS FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES, AND OCCASIONALLY MUST RESORT TO LARGER AND BETTER EQUIPPED CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION. AIRCRAFT TO BE BASED AT ORAN AND LA QUIACA.

C. PARA 2. C) THE EMBASSY PLANS TO MONITOR THE USE OF THE EQUIPMENT THROUGH SPOT INSPECTIONS AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS, AND THROUGH COORDINATION WITH LOCAL HEADQUARTERS. THE BORDER PATROL WILL HELP IN THIS REGARD BY PUTTING EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER IN SPECIAL UNITS TO (1) INSURE THAT THE EQUIPMENT IS USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE, AND (2) TO PERMIT EASIER INSPECTION BY US WHENEVER WE DESIRE.

D. PARA 3. A) SINCE THE BORDER PATROL ALREADY HAS AN AIR UNIT, THE ADDITION OF AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT ENTAIL LARGE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES ON THEIR PART. ALSO, RENTING THE FEW AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IN NORTHERN ARGENTINA WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND COSTLY. FEW RENTAL AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IN NORTHWEST ARGENTINA AND NOT AVAILABLE ON SHORT NOTICE FOR PATROL PURPOSE. FLIGHT TIME FROM SALTA TO AREA OF OPERATIONS WOULD BE AT LEAST ONE HOUR LOST TIME. REGULAR USE FOR PATROL PURPOSE MAKES COST EXCESSIVE.

E. PARA 3. B) ACCORDING TO CONATON, ONLY THE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED WILL SIGN THE PROAG FOR THE GOA. THE BORDER PATROL HAS ASSURED THE DAO THAT IT CAN AND WILL MEET THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AIRCRAFT.

F. PARA 5) AS INDICATED BY THE TRIP OF THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND DEFATT TO VISIT BORDER PATROL INSTALLATIONS IN THE NORTH, THE BORDER PATROL IS MORE THAN WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH US AND SEEKS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE INTELLIGENCE. BP OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER COORDINATION BE EFFECTED THROUGH CONTACT WITH BNDD AGENTS, THROUGH COORDINATION WITH THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS OR DIRECTLY WITH THE SQUADRONS, OR THROUGH CONATON.

2. ALL OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE FURTHER CLARIFIED BY THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN WHICH THE BORDER PATROL EXPECTS TO GIVE US SHORTLY. SINCE THE EMBASSY WILL THEN BE REQUESTING A TDY EXPERT TO REFINE SPECIFICATIONS AND REVIEW THE BP'S REQUIREMENTS, WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE AN EVEN BETTER IDEA OF THE NEED FOR THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 03206 091304 Z

EQUIPMENT.
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